



Berkshire 2023 Festival Newsletter

Volume 1

Issue 1

July 2018

This is the first issue of the newsletter for The Berkshire 2023 Festival. It will inform you on how we are progressing towards our target of raising £1.9 million, as well as events organised by the Festival Committee and individual lodges.

Festival Chairman

The festival was successfully launched by the PGM on 18th May 2018 in Sindlesham. It has a duration of five years and will end in June 2023.

The PGM set us a target to raise £1.9m for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Can I thank you all for your incredible generosity as in the first two and half months, we have raised nearly 15% of our target: fantastic!

I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to commit to a regular payment plan of a minimum of £10 per month to get your Steward's Jewel: it's simple and equivalent to a cup of coffee per week. Alternately, a one-off donation of £600 achieves the same result. To date, nearly 125 jewels have been sent out.



To See How To Make A Regular Contribution click: [payment plan set up](#)

The Festival is being managed by a Festival Committee consisting of: (from left to right):



W Bro Gerry Preston (Events)
; W Bro Colin Smith (Treasurer); VW Bro Peter Sands (chairman); W Bro Tim Sherwood (publicity); W Bro Paul Watson (Committee Secretary); W Bro David Keys (Provincial Grand Secretary); and W Bro Tim Lee (Assistant Treasurer)

Four levels of honorifics

Membership fixed as at 31st May 2018

Lodge Honorifics

A series of honorifics has been established to reward individual Lodges for their contribution to the Festival. The awards are based on a per capita contribution and the number of members in a Lodge is fixed as per the Grand Lodge records as at 31st May 2018. Any additions or losses after this date will not be taken in to consideration in calculating the per member contribution. As at the end of June 2018, progress looks like this.

Some ideas on how to raise funds are described in the section on raising funds detailed below.

Honorific Level	Contribution Per member	Number of lodges at this level
 Bronze	£350 per member	1
 Silver	£500 per member	0
 Gold	£750 per member	0
 Platinum	£1,000 per member	0

When a lodge attains the Bronze or Silver award this will be recognised by a presentation to the lodge by a member of the Provincial Executive. On reaching the Gold level, the award will be made by the PGM and for Platinum, the Lodge will be presented with this at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting.

Festivals largest source of funds for MCF.

Grants per year in excess of £30 million

Who are we raising funds for?

Each year four provinces launch a festival to raise funds for the MCF. These festivals are a vital source of fund raising and contribute the largest amount of funds for the Foundation.

The funds raised enable the Foundation to make grants to Masons, their families and other non-masonic organisations. The grants are split roughly 50/50 between masonic and non-masonic giving and in 2017 the total given to all these causes was over £30 million.

To see the MCF website click: [MCF](#)

Ways of raising money:

- Create a plan
- Form a committee
- Five simple methods to raise funds
- Have some fun!

Ways of raising money – thoughts from the Festival Treasurer

There are five key ways of raising money for the Berkshire Festival 2023:

- If everyone gave £10.00 a month-the cost of a cup of coffee a week-for five years that equates to £600.00 which, with Tax Refunded equals £750.00 per member – this qualifies for a Festival Jewel.
- One Off Donations: Can be from the Lodge Relief Chest, from Lodge Benevolent/Charity/General accounts or from Individuals.
- Gift Aided Alms Collections: There will be an abundance of relevant envelopes, pre-filled with the Relief Chest Number, at all centres.
- Raffles/Auctions: Remember that Gift Aid cannot be used. The WM/DC must announce that the raffle is for Festival 2023.
- Special Events: These are up to each Lodge but do keep us informed of you plans. Send details to pco@berkspgl.org.uk and it will be posted onto all the websites and Facebook pages

Following on from this, if the lodge creates a plan then it can create a steady flow of events and fundraising that will help it achieve its target. Do not, however, put all the work on your poor charity steward spread it around the lodge or form a special committee. For a 30-member lodge, the results could be as follows :

Assumption	£	£
50% members contribute £10 per month	9,000	
Tax relief	2,250	11,250
30% give £5 per month	2,700	
Tax relief	675	3,375
Raise £500 per annum through events	2,500	
Gift aid at 50%	312	2,812
Raise £500 per annum through Raffles but only donate 60%	1,500	1,500
Make a one-off donation from the lodge relief chest	3,600	3,500
Total raised in festival period		22,537



Events

Provincial events

Current events

➤ **The Berkshire 2023 Festival Raffle**

The raffle tickets have been distributed to all Lodge Charity Stewards'. There are three great prizes with the first prize being the use of a villa that sleeps 10 in the Cadiz area of Spain; portraits; and a hog roast.

The draw for this raffle will take place at the **Christmas Party**

➤ **Quiz night**

A special quiz hosted by the Light Blues Club in November/December.

➤ **The Christmas Party**

This will be held at Sindlesham on **15th December 2018**. Ticket price is £35: more details will be available in later in September.

➤ **Berkshire 2023 Festival Golf Day**

An inter Lodge golf competition is to be held on **18th April 2019** at Sandmartins Golf Club in Finchampstead. The cost for the day is £50 and the number is restricted to 60 Golfers. The day is being organised by the BPMGS; details to follow closer to the date

Planned events and dates for your diary

The following events are in the course of planning , further details will be posted once the plans are firmer but please put them in your diary.

- The second Provincial raffle will be launched in **February 2019**.
- A classic car rally and family fun day in **late June 2019**.
- Tim Lee will start his sponsored walk around the Province visiting all our centres in **September 2019**.
- The 2019 Christmas party - with a Beatles theme - will be held **on 7th December 2019**.

- The ‘Provincial Grand Master Chef’ Raffle will be launched in **February 2020**. The winner and five guests will be invited to the PGM’s house to be wined and dined by him and a team of assistants. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas party held in **December 2020**.
- The Stewart Pendle Challenge – details to be confirmed – will happen in **June 2021**.
- A sponsored Zip Line Challenge – only the brave and the mad to take part will be organised in **June 2021**.
- The Grand Festival Ball will be held in **10th June 2023** and the total funds raised will be announce there.

Lodge events

- The Lodge of Commerce is organising a special initiation ceremony. On **24th October 2018**: The candidate is the PGM; all the officers will be filled by the person who bids the most for that office. The workings are special too, the Lodges antient workings will be used. To take part, contact s0215@berkspgl.org.uk before midday on Saturday 1st September 2018. Full details can be found at: [Lodge of Commerce special initiation](#)
- Reading Lodge of Union ceremony on **16th October 2018** is an initiation when they will be giving detailed explanations of the workings including some that are rarely, if at all, seen. The raffle and charity collection will all go to the Festival 2023 appeal. Cost is £24 and if you wish to go please contact: [Owen Doe](#)